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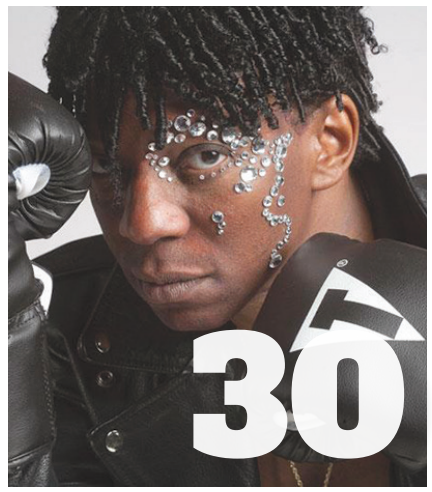

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NEWS BRIEFS

Federal Judge Denies Attorney General Dana Nessel's Motion in LGBTQ Adoption Case

U.S. District Judge Robert Jonker issued a preliminary injunction last month that will continue to allow faith-based adoption agencies contracting with the state, despite its same-sex non-discrimination provision, to discriminate against same-sex couples hoping to adopt. This is the result of St. Vincent Catholic Charities, who are suing the state of Michigan after a settlement was made earlier this year mandating that faith-based adoption and foster agencies do not discriminate based on the sexual orientation of potential parents. Nessel is appealing this decision in a higher court and requested a pause to Jonker's decision, but was denied.

Attorney General Dana Nessel

Jonker said that the state attorneys "offered nothing new" and "failed to come to grips" that supported the argument that Nessel engaged in "religious targeting" when she focused on St. Vincent Catholic Charities in her lawsuit. Nessel has denied having hostility toward faith-based agencies that contracted with the state and said that so long as they "agreed not to discriminate" in a state contract they should be held responsible.

"They signed those contracts themselves, nobody made them do that," she said. "… When you don't discriminate against prospective people who want to adopt children you end up with more children being adopted. That's a fact. Every study that you can look at indicates that that's the case, and that's what we ought to be doing."

Bill Could Extend 'Hate Crime' Penalties for Attacks Against Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity

LANSING - Currently, Michiganders are protected against hate crimes if they are threats or violence based on race, color, religion or gender. However, LGBTQ Michiganders are not protected. State Sen. Adam Hollier, D-Detroit, says that needs to change and protections for victims of crimes based on sexual orientation and gender identity need to be included.

"Because terrorism is all about intent — intent to encourage people not to do something, to incite fear," Hollier said in a Michigan Public Radio Network report.

Currently, Michigan Republicans have not taken a public stance on the issue. According to the report, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's "press secretary says she has not read the bill but favors adding LGBT to Michigan's hate crime protections."

Perceptions, Great Lakes Bay Region's LGBTQ Nonprofit Organization, Announces New Executive Director

BY BTL STAFF

MIDLAND — Perceptions, the Great Lakes Bay Region's LGBTQ nonprofit organization, announced Scott Ellis has been named Executive Director of the organization dedicated to "building a community that inspires engagement, equality and respect for all."

Ellis, a marketing and special event professional, previously served the LGBTQ community as a Perceptions board member and committee leader. For the past three years, Ellis directed the organization's Great Lakes Bay PRIDE events, leading an inclusive and diverse committee to build the PRIDE Festival, PRIDE Film series and PRIDE After Party into a comprehensive annual LGBTQ and Ally PRIDE season, serving more than 3,000 individuals and featuring numerous inclusive businesses and nonprofit organizations.

Ellis succeeds Chris Lauckner, Perceptions' first executive director and previous president of the board. Under Lauckner's leadership, Perceptions grew sixfold in six years and expanded its scope of services to include LGBTQ senior resources, transgender youth and family support, PRIDE festival leadership, the creation of Harmony Diversity Choir and LGBTQ-targeted mental and physical health education. Lauckner will remain with Perceptions as chairman emeritus and collaborate with Ellis to support Perceptions' service offerings and community partnerships.

"Due to our exponential growth, Perceptions is prepared to continue its successful collaborations with partners and community leaders to expand further our services – particularly in the areas of LGBTQ youth, seniors, transgender individuals, and health. I have known Scott professionally for several years now — we have worked on many programs and initiatives together. With his insight and energy, I am confident Scott will lead Perceptions onward to great things!" said Beth Sibray, Perceptions board of trustees president.

"I am excited and honored to take on this new role with Perceptions and continue making strides towards achieving our vision of a community that inspires engagement, equality and respect for all. Working within our community has provided me the opportunity to connect with incredible individuals, businesses and other nonprofit organizations that believe diversity and inclusion are vital to our future success as a region," said Scott Ellis, Perceptions executive director.

Ellis joins Perceptions from BaySail, where he was the organization's marketing director. He graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in communications from Saginaw Valley State University.

Perceptions is a 501(c)(3) organization governed by a volunteer board of trustees serving the Great Lakes Bay Region since 2002. Perceptions' mission is to provide inclusive sexual orientation and gender identity/expression (SOGIE) education, advocacy, networking, and resources to individuals and organizations in the Great Lakes Bay Region.

Gov. Whitmer Takes Action to Raise Overtime Pay Threshold for Michigan Workers

New Overtime Rule Would Guarantee Overtime Pay to Nearly 200,000

BY BTL STAFF

LANSING — Gov. Gretchen Whitmer directed the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity to submit a request for rulemaking to expand the right to overtime pay to more Michigan workers. Changes in federal law are set to extend overtime pay rights to workers making up to $35,500, but even then less than one in six Michiganders will benefit, down from a peak of more than 60 percent of workers.

"In America, hard work should be recognized and rewarded. When I was growing up, that meant you got overtime if you worked more than 40 hours," Whitmer said. "President Obama took the first step towards restoring this right for millions of Americans five years ago, and if his proposed rule had taken effect, workers earning up to $51,000 today would be eligible for overtime pay. Instead, President Trump took a big step backwards when he implemented a rule that leaves 200,000 Michigan workers behind. That's why today I'm directing the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity to take action that will extend the right to overtime pay for thousands of Michigan workers. Strengthening paychecks is good for families, good for business and good for our economy. It's time to get it done."

According to the United Way's ALICE report on financially struggling households, families need an annual salary of $61,000 just to afford the basics and support a family of four. Families that live below the ALICE threshold struggle to pay for health care, childcare, car insurance and healthy food for their children.

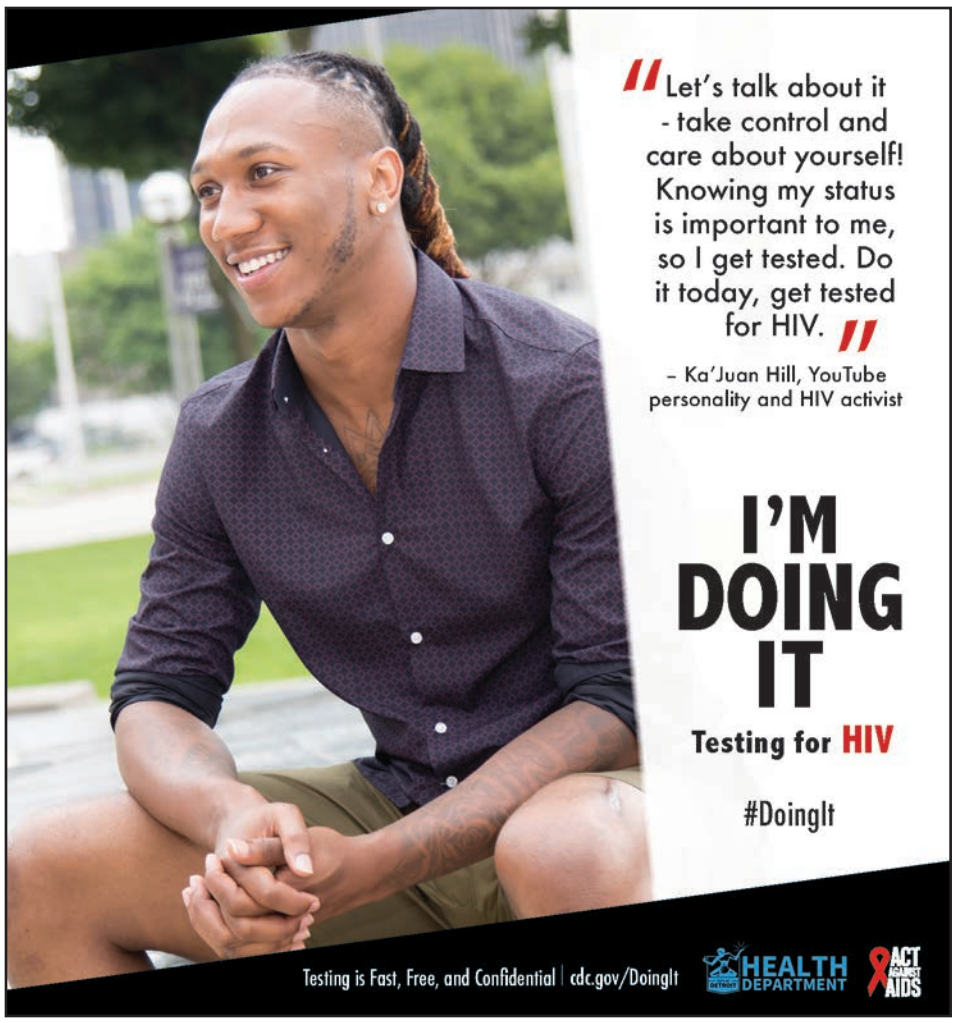
"Gov. Whitmer's directive to increase overtime pay protections is good for workers and good for Michigan's economy. This directive begins the rulemaking process, which will include feedback from businesses and key stakeholders, and we look forward to their participation as we move forward," said Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity Director Jeff Donofrio.

In 2014, the Obama Administration sought to increase the overtime threshold to $47,476. The Trump Administration abandoned the historic expansion and finalized its own level of $35,568, which leaves nearly 200,000 Michiganders without access to overtime pay.

As a result, more and more states are expanding the right to overtime pay. California is raising its threshold to $62,400 by 2022. New York is raising its to $58,500 by dates between 2019 and the mid-2020's varying by region. Washington State and Pennsylvania are finalizing agency rules to raise it to $79,872 by 2026 and $45,500 by 2022, respectively. Massachusetts has proposed raising it to $64,000 by 2022, and Maine to $55,000 by 2022.

Once the request for rulemaking is submitted, the process to finalize an overtime rule could take between 6 to 12 months.

To view the full request for rulemaking visit this link: gaybe.am/d1.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Affirmations' Fall Fling Raises Over $56K

Center announces new partnership with Corktown Health Center

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

They were popping bottles in the place all night long. Affirmations LGBTQ community center in Ferndale hosted its most successful Fall Fling fundraiser ever Saturday night. The party's theme being Wizard of Wine, attendees were asked to bring two bottles of wine – one to share and one to be auctioned – in place of an entrance fee. With close to 300 attending the event, which returned to its roots and took place at the center this year, nearly an equal number of bottles was auctioned off and more than 200 were consumed.

The auction and raffle raised $4,000 while a direct plea for donations from Affirmations' Executive Director Dave Garcia netted an additional $25,000 on the spot. A third stream of revenue, corporate sponsorships and ad sales for the official booklet, brought in $17,000. Adding that to all of the in-kind donations and the grand total was just over $56,000.

"It's important to note that because people brought the wine and the food was all donated and we used our own building, we had very little cost associated with this event," Garcia said. "We spent about $1,000 on the event.

"My goal with this event has always been to showcase the building and have a great night with good food, music and, of course, wine," Garcia continued. "I'm happy with the number, but I'm much more excited about all the people who came into the building and walked around getting to know all the various programs we have."

Garcia started the Fall Fling during his first tenure as executive director of Affirmations. It was designed to be a low-cost alternative to the annual Spring Bash gala, which is a black-tie fundraising event.

"It has always been important to me that this event be inexpensive and easily assessible for everyone in our community," Garcia said. "It was important to bring it back to its roots and not sell tickets and only have the two bottles of wine rule to get in."

Longtime Affirmations volunteer Michelle Fox-Phillips was pleased with the change, noting that at one time under the leadership of executive director Darrious Hilmon the cost of the Fling had risen to $75. Fox complained to the Affirmations board earlier in the year about the increased cost. But the two bottles of wine rule, Fox-Phillips said, was perfect for any budget.

"I thought it was awesome, to be honest," Fox-Phillips said. "Dave came back and he instituted the two bottles of wine. He also moved the Fling back to Affirmations, too. So that was cool."

From top: Affirmations Executive Director Dave Garcia addresses the over 300 attendees Saturday night. Below left: Garcia with board members and supporters pose next to donated wine. Below right: Members of The Senior Koffee Klatch group. BTL Photos: Tih Penfil

The bar set up in the center's cyber café was so besieged by thirsty attendees that Brianna Dee Kingsley, who'd come to the party to enjoy the festivities, was inspired to set down a fresh plate of food to jump behind the counter and help out. She went on to serve behind the bar, pouring a bleary river of reds and whites, sweet and dry, for over two hours.

"Ever since Dave returned, I have been spending more and more time at the center," Kingsley said. "It is full of life again. I see hope in the faces I meet there."

From top: Detroit Together Gay Men's Chorus. Below left: U.S. Rep. Andy Levin with outgoing Board President Mike Flores. Below right: Incoming Board President Cheryl Czach with outgoing Board President Mike Flores. BTL Photos: Tih Penfil

Affirmations to partner with Corktown Health Center

Midway through the evening, the leadership of Affirmations addressed the crowd and announced a new joint-initiative between the center and the Corktown Health Center. The partnership "will expand health care and community services provided to the LGBT community in Wayne and Oakland counties," said Affirmations Board President Mike Flores, who announced he is stepping down immediately to move to Corktown Health Center and oversee the partnership from that end.

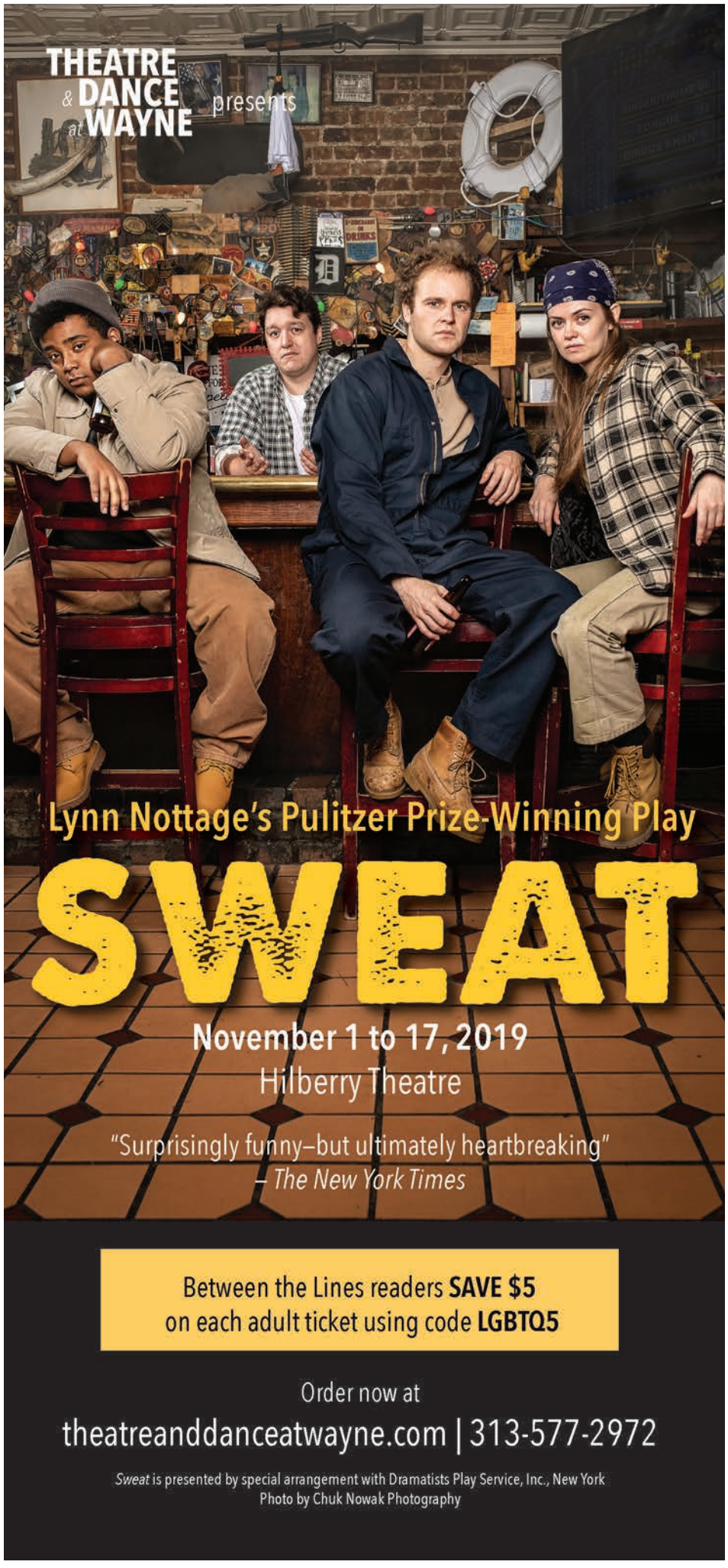
"The details of this partnership will be outlined in the future, but both Affirmations and Corktown have already taken several steps to clearly signal the importance of such a partnership," he said. "The partnership is extremely important for our community. ... My transition to Corktown will require me to step down from the Affirmations board but it will ensure this project will be successful for both Affirmations and Corktown."

Flores announced that Affirmations Board Vice President Cheryl Czach would be stepping into the interim president role. For her part, Czach thanked Flores on behalf of the board for his ongoing efforts.

"Mike, thank you for your years of dedicated and selfless service to Affirmations and our community," Czach said. "It was your vision and, frankly, your tenacity that got us through some very difficult times. Affirmations is more stable and a thriving organization because of your leadership."

Garcia told the crowd that centers across the country were all looking at providing health care services.

"At a time when we all know that we are under attack, especially in health care, when a pediatrician in Detroit refuses to treat a baby because that baby's parents are lesbians and then hides behind a religious exemption," he said. "And we see these religious exemptions popping up all over the country. And transgender people are being denied care. It is now more important than ever that we protect our own in the field of health care. So, we at Affirmations want to provide culturally competent, compassionate health care for our people."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Alexandra Dinser for Novi City Council: A Passion to Pay it Forward

BY ELLEN SHANNA KNOPPOW

Novi Roots

Alexandra Dinser wants to pay it forward. That's a driving force behind the 29-year-old lifelong Novi resident's campaign for city council. Dinser said she's benefited from living in the city in many ways and wants to give back. Even her family's former business of 43 years, Dinser's Greenhouse, speaks to the roots she has in the community.

Much of Dinser's early connection with the community was through the Novi Youth Assistance program, a nonprofit that strengthens youth and families through community involvement and offers free counseling for those in need.

"My involvement was with their teen center program mainly," Dinser explained. "I went to it as a kid. I volunteered there as a high schooler, then I worked there for seven years as a staff member once I got into college, and I volunteered in their office as well. And I received the scholarship that they offer when I graduated from high school."

A Commitment to Diversity

Because of Dinser's extensive experience with Novi Youth Assistance, it's not surprising that one area she would focus on if elected is diversity, including diversity in age. That means "making sure that youth in the city have a voice in city matters, and then also the older population," Dinser said.

Along with age, fostering diversity in all respects is key to Dinser's platform: race, ethnicity, nationality and socioeconomic background, as well as sexual orientation and gender identity and expression. While it's been proposed in the past, Novi lacks an inclusive non-discrimination ordinance because it hasn't garnered enough support from council members, according to Dinser. That's something she said she'd champion if elected. A potentially hopeful sign for the city's openness to that ordinance is that Novi adopted inclusive protections in city employment last year.

A focus on the environment is another plank in Dinser's platform, too. That includes "making sure that our wetlands and endangered plants and animals are protected, as well as green spaces," Dinser said. "That means protect the ones that exist, then ensure that whatever builders come in are trying to maintain what's left of it," she said. "And that goes with trees, too. How they're being replaced or maintained when we have builders coming in."

Housing is also something Dinser said she talks about with residents, because she believes that people are sticking with the master plan.

"Having people young and old on the council to represent that, and other races, orientations ... would just be very, very beneficial."
Alexandra Dinser

"People that are young families come into the city and they don't have a ton of money at first, so they might settle into a starter home, but then to transition into another house, their only other option ... are very expensive homes. So, a lot of these families are moving out of Novi. Or ... the older population, they want to downsize, and we don't have many ranches. We have all these colonials and tri-levels.

"Having people young and old on the council to represent that, and other races, orientations ... would just be very, very beneficial," Dinser said.

Range of Experience

Currently a secretary in the counseling and attendance office at Farmington High School where she also co-advises the school's Gay-Straight Alliance, Dinser holds a bachelor's degree in social work and a master's in higher education and student affairs. She said that it's through her background in social work that she acquired an understanding of intersectionality and a holistic viewpoint in how she views the residents of the city.

Dinser also has past experience in the political sphere, including volunteer work for One Royal Oak, the campaign for that city's non-discrimination ordinance, and lately for Samantha Steckloff, candidate for Michigan House District 37. Perhaps most importantly, though, Dinser says is the benefit of being intimately involved with Novi throughout her life.

"Knowing the ins and outs of the city, I think, is a big positive first of all," Dinser asserted. "I know a lot of the local business owners because I have lived here my entire life. So the connections I've made through my family's business, or the teen center, too, because I had to go out in the community for that."

In the Right Place at the Right Time

Dinser believes she's the first openly LGBTQ candidate for Council in Novi. It's something she's proud of, and called it an honor. The response has been largely positive, too.

"Of course, I was a little nervous on some level, because there is that conservative leaning [of Novi], but I haven't run into any issues. And I'm grateful for that," Dinser said.

As a matter of fact, Dinser shared one experience on the campaign trail that was unexpectedly and overwhelmingly affirming. It happened recently when she was delivering yard signs and a woman stopped in her car to ask for one. Previously, Dinser had spoken with the woman's husband, who supported the candidate's stance on diversity.

"She said, 'I hope that includes LGBT.' And I'm like, 'Well, I'm a lesbian, so of course it does. It definitely does.' And she had her young daughter in the back seat, and she kind of gestured to her, and she goes, 'She came out to her parents last year.' She was 10 years old. And I gave her a high-five. 'You're very brave, good for you.'

"And this proceeded into an 1 1/2 to to two-hour conversation with these people. They invited me into their house. ... This little girl was really excited to meet another gay person — she said that to me. ... And, honestly, I was so honored that I could be that representation for that girl. And I don't say that to toot my own horn. I say that because for me, even at this point in my life, I look up to Dana Nessel and all the others that have paved the way. And if I can be even somewhat of that person for that little 10-year-old girl, it's beyond what I ever imagined. And it was very unexpected how it came up. It was like the universe ... I was in the right place at the right time to meet these people."

Wrap-Up

While she's certainly in it to win it, Dinser said no matter the outcome of the election, she plans to stay involved, whether sitting on committees or running for office in the future.

"I'm just so grateful for the experience overall, and the people that I've met through this, because I'm flabbergasted sometimes at the support that I've gotten," Dinser said. "I try to represent myself as well as I can as someone who's very committed to Novi. I am very grateful and happy that I grew up there. We have great schools and while there are a few things I would like to see changes in, I still think that I am that person that would really put their heart into it. I have that passion to pay it forward. And that's a big one — I want to pay it forward in the ways that I have benefited by living there. And especially, with youth. That's a big one. I want to make sure that they have the experience that I did, but even better."

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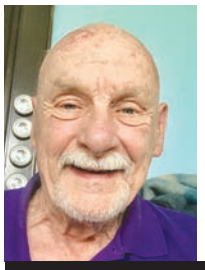


Were You Ever 'Known' or 'Alleged'?

Parting Glances

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Editor's Note: This article was originally published in October 2016.

Just a few generations ago, the term homosexual was often qualified by adjectives. Alleged. Avowed. Rumored. Known! The descriptions were used by cautious media, police enforcement agencies and courtroom attorneys.

Not many are aware that until as recently as 35 years ago, Michigan's Liquor Control Commission prohibited bars and "licensed premises to be frequented by or to become the meeting place, hangout or rendezvous for known homosexuals."

It was never clear what was a "known homosexual." Was it a person who had a sex offender arrest record? Someone who habitually dressed in clothes of the opposite sex? Someone who swished or gossiped in a high-pitched voice? Ssomeone brave enough to tell the straight world he or she was gay, lesbian or queer?

The term was so vague that, if nothing else, it provoked bar and nightclub owners, bartenders, waitstaff to insist that possible sexually deviant clientele be warned to behave themselves, not to 'camp it up,' never to hold hands, dance and — throw the miscreants out at once! — kiss or fondle in public.

Presumably sipping drinks through a straw, ordering Shirley Temples, a gin and tonic with cucumber or a cutesy drink topped with a cherry or a paper umbrella was acceptable, if one behaved oneself and didn't too obviously follow a straight client or two into the john.

(I can remember when cautious bartenders at the "discrete" bar in the downtown Detroit Statler Hotel would hand too obvious gay patrons a terse note, "Your patronage is no longer welcome here. Do not return.")

This somewhat egregious prohibition of gays and lesbians from Michigan's bars and nightclubs was rescinded under Republican Gov. William Milliken's administration in 1979, thanks to the efforts of the Michigan Organization of Human Rights.

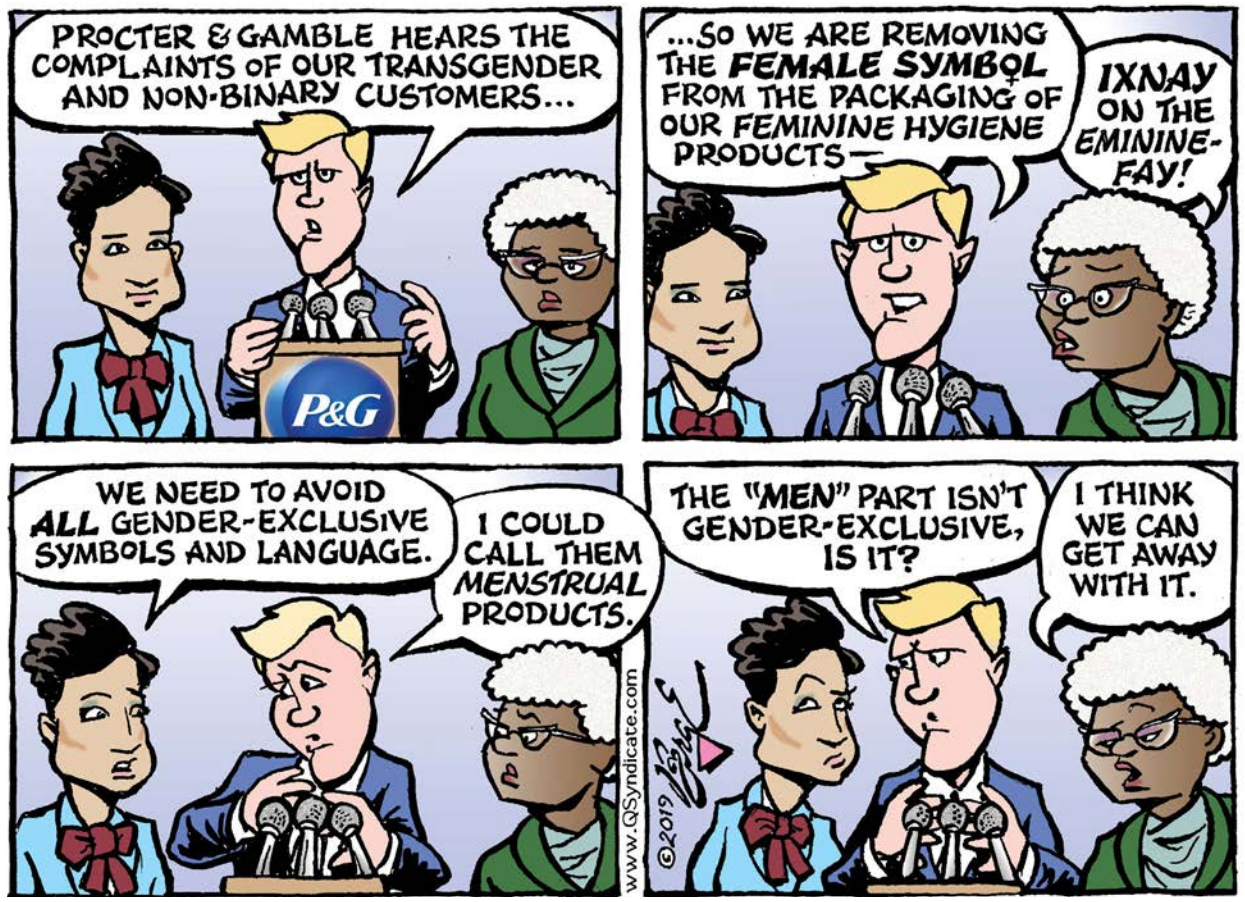
Interestingly enough, in spite of the Liquor Commission's admonition to keep gays and lesbians from spending hard-earned, ribbon clerk cash on getting inebriated, tipsy, occasionally downright drunk and disorderly, since Prohibition ended in 1933, the number of drinking establishments serving "known" or "suspected" homosexuals is, it turns out, in the hundreds.

According to the "Historical Directory of Gay & Lesbian Bars in Metro Detroit," by Yale University Ph.D. graduate (and former associate editor of BTL) Tim Retzloff, the listing is about 300. (Of that number, I'm pleased to say — or, is it embarrassed to admit? — I've been in about a tenth of these at one time or another, with varying degrees of success at making out or making a fool of myself.)

Among the earliest listed is the Sweetheart Bar, dating back to 1938. The oldest operating gay bar is the Woodward Lounge, still shaking its booze and booty since 1954. Menjo's, which over recent years has hosted changes of clientele and settings, got started in 1974.

(Three pieces of ID - including picture - once kept anticipated outsider problems and racial mixing to a minimum.)

See next page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Transmissions

She/Her/Hers

BY GWENDOLYN ANN SMITH

"Do I contradict myself?
Very well then I contradict myself,
(I am large, I contain multitudes.)"
- Walt Whitman, "Song of Myself"

I find myself grappling with an unusual contradiction, and one I find myself having somewhat unique challenges grasping for an answer that satisfies myself.

Over the last few years, a movement has been afoot. Initially picked up by trans and non-binary activists, non-trans allies took up the mantle and have begun to push to include pronouns in introductions, online biographies and elsewhere.

Some events provide stickers and buttons where one can easily declare that their pronouns are "she/her," "they/them," "zie/hir," "he/him" and so on.

The goal of all this is simple: by normalizing the practice of asking and/or declaring pronouns for everyone, transgender and non-binary people will not feel othered when they need to provide their pronouns, or when asked about same.

This seems a good thing to me. I've been in plenty of awkward situations, as a trans woman, where I have been asked about my pronouns, or where I have had to assert my pronouns of choice — she/her/hers, for those who might be wondering. By having everyone declare their pronouns up front, we all have a level playing field from the get-go, and all end up being included in the process.

That's good, right?

Well, maybe.

I lived a lie for many years, having to present in a gender that did not fit me. During all those years, a completely different set of pronouns were applied to me, and those pronouns stood for everything that was wrong with how I saw seen in the world.

I transitioned some time ago. I am largely accepted within my gender, and all the years of sweat and toil — not to mention medical bills — have essentially paid off. For the most part, everyone finally can see the person I always knew I was, without having to second-guess.

That, to me, is a big deal. Today — most of the time — everyone is on the same page as to who I am.

So, it feels awkward and uncomfortable when I find myself in a position where, after all these years, I still have to clarify my pronouns for people. I want to say scream, "Isn't it obvious?" when I am confronted, as I was for decades, about what my pronouns are.

I have to remind myself, in those times, that those who are asking are well-meaning, and don't mean to cause pain. They may not know the years when such a question may have had a sharpened edge, wielded against me in challenge. The "wrong" answer then would open me to mockery and derision and could be a source of pain.

See **Transmissions**, continued on p. 11

► Transmissions
Continued from p. 10

In this way, it would provide the exact opposite of what is meant by asking. Rather than a tool of affirmation designed to prevent me from feeling "othered," it singles me out with laser-like precision, revealing any self-perceived shortcoming. It becomes fuel for any lingering dysphoria I may yet hold onto.

That's bad, right?

It's hard to say.

This notion of asking for pronouns, while it has caught on in a lot of places, is still new. It hasn't quite yet normalized the practice of providing ones pronouns no matter if one is trans or not.

One worry I have is that this is all a trend in some circles, a transgender flag-colored "ribbon magnet" where one can show they are a good ally without really doing anything of substance to help non-binary and transgender people. Just another example of doing the literal least one can do to try and bring true acceptance of trans and non-binary people to the world.

I am sure, too, that it's even less a part of culture outside of the relatively progressive circles I tend to run in. It may be a lot less common in parts of the country and world that still feel that men are from Mars and women from Venus or whatnot.

In those places, I suspect that most non-trans men and women might be offended by some a question. They likely react negatively, as if you should be able to tell by their appearance, their name and their actions exactly what their pronouns are.

In short, they — like me — might find themselves responding to any inquiry about their pronouns with the same frustration I would. They might exclaim just as vehemently that their gender should be just as obvious.

I lived a lie for many years, having to present in a gender that did not fit me. During all those years, a completely different set of pronouns were applied to me, and those pronouns stood for everything that was wrong with how I saw seen in the world.

In short, this becomes all so very complicated — but that's okay.

If the goal is to normalize the process, then I too need to be part of that normalization process. I am not giving up any hard-won right to my gender by declaring my pronouns, no more than any non-transgender person is giving up anything of their own by declaring the same. We are simply giving voice to what is, to ourselves, obvious.

Do I know if declaring pronouns is ever going to be a routinely accepted thing? Of course not. It may not even be something I'll see in my lifetime, given that people still fight over gender-neutral terms like "flight attendant" or cross swords over gender-specific dress codes. These are fights I've seen since the 1970s, and I'm sure date back, in one form or another, much, much farther.

Is asking pronouns good? Is it bad?

I don't know. It might be both. It could even be neither. I simply do not have an answer I am fully happy with.

All I can say is this: it all seems worthwhile thing to explore. We can only learn by trying.

Gwen Smith has grown accustomed to her pronouns. You'll find her at gwensmith.com.

► Parting Glances
Continued from p. 10

Many, many of the bars and clubs in Retzloff's 2010 Directory are now but fading memories of a vibrant Detroit gay past. The 1011, Rio Grande, Silver Dollar, LaRosa's, Barrel Bar, Foster's, Royal Showbar, Palais were all within walking distance of each other. And to the nearby First Police Precinct jail, bullpen and adjacent courtroom.

In passing, let me gratefully say that my friend Tim Retzloff has done Detroit's LGBTQ community a service that is truly dedicated and amazing in its research endeavor, scope and detail. In addition to his Bar Directory, Tim has reviewed over 15,000 arrest records of gays since 1940 and has completed a 680-page dissertation of Detroit's LGBTQ History.

On behalf of countless gays, lesbians, transgender persons both present and past: Thanks, Dr. Tim. A loving documentation, well-undertaken, meticulously done. OUR history preserved for future generations. I eagerly await its publication in book format soon.

Charles Alexander is prolific both as a BTL columnist (700-plus columns) and as a well-known LGBT community artist (1000 Facebook images). He is a Spirit of Detroit Award recipient and an Affirmations LGBT CENTER Jan Stevenson awardee. Connect with him at Charles@pridesource.com.

Creep Of The Week

Civility

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

As for chanting "lock him up," it's not a bloodthirsty chant for revenge, it's turning the language of his supporters against him as a way to say, "Hey, nobody in the U.S. is supposed to be above the law!"

Once upon a time there was a president so unpopular with and loathed by the American people that on the same day he announced the killing of ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi he was booed when he showed up at the World Series.

That was, of course, Donald Trump.

Keep in mind that Trump doesn't make impromptu appearances. He prefers rallies filled with supporters and carefully scripted interactions. He surrounds himself with yes men and yes women.

So when his name was announced at the World Series game, he was all smiles at first, waving at the crowd. But it quickly dawned on him that people weren't cheering, they were booing. And the look on his face changed to a pout, his shoulders slumped. Some videos of the occasion you can hear crowd members yelling, "Lock him up!"

It's a beautiful thing. Watch the video. It'll give you joy. Or it'll make you clutch your pearls and launch into a lecture about civility.

Take "Morning Joe's" Joe Scarborough, for example.

"We are Americans and we do not do that," Scarborough said. "We do not want the world hearing us chant 'lock him up' to this president or to any president."

And then there was Nate Silver who whined on Twitter that liberals were mean and couldn't let Trump have one good thing. How dare they boo him on a day when the military killed a bad guy?

Some Democrats were upset, too.

"I have a hard time with the idea of a crowd on a globally televised sporting event chanting 'lock him up' about our President," Delaware Sen. Chris Coons said on CNN. "I frankly think the office of the President deserves respect, even when the actions of our President at times don't."

There are plenty more examples of people aghast that the American people would be so uncivil.

And you know what I have to say about that? Fuck civility. What we have is a lawless leader who has been accused of so many crimes it's hard to keep track, but it's never far from my mind that he is an accused rapist and sexual assaulter. Booing him is the least people can do.

Booing him at a baseball game isn't disrespecting the office of the President. It's expressing loudly, and in the only way Trump can understand, that we do not approve of what Trump is doing and that this man doesn't represent us. It's expressing that the office of the President should be occupied by a person who deserves and is qualified to be there.

It's not sending the wrong signal to the rest of the world. Someone on Twitter complained that as a result of the booing "our enemies are laughing at us," as if our enemies didn't know that millions of Americans voted for this unfit reality TV star garbage monster and our Electoral College rules made him the president. If anything, booing him at a public appearance is sending exactly the right message to the rest of the world: "We hate this guy and wish he wasn't president!"

As for chanting "lock him up," it's not a bloodthirsty chant for revenge, it's turning the language of his supporters against him as a way to say, "Hey, nobody in the U.S. is supposed to be above the law!" Also, it's important to note that the people at the baseball game were chanting this about a sitting president who is accused of actual crimes and is facing impeachment. When Trump encouraged his supporters to chant the same thing it was directed at his political opponent. There's a goddamn difference.

As for not letting Trump bask in a glow of adoration for the ISIS operation, baseball fans didn't take that from him. Trump took that away from himself. You can't take kids away and lock them in cages, lie more often than you tell the truth, praise murderous dictators, fuel and refuse to condemn white supremacist violence, continually threaten to take away access to health care from millions of Americans, declare mainstream media the "enemy of the people" — not to mention his administrations countless attacks on LGBTQ people, immigrants, asylum seekers, women, students and the poor — and expect people to forget all of that (and more!) when you do something that might be praiseworthy.

There are those who bemoan the crassness of political discourse and note that the bar for what is appropriate has been lowered a great deal in the last few years. And Trump has been rightly blamed for lowering that bar. Some say we shouldn't boo Trump because that is stooping to his level. But I'd like to remind those people that this small-minded and cruel man, this man who sees himself as a king and has no respect for American institutions and laws, is the president. We created and cannot control this monster. The only power we have is our vote and our dissent, whether that's booing, or putting a "Tuck Frump" sticker on our car, or wearing an "Impeach the Motherfucker" T-shirt, and we're going to use it.

Data at Forefront of Congressional Hearing on Anti-LGBT Bias in Housing, Credit

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

As LGBT rights advocates continue to press the Equality Act to ban anti-LGBT discrimination, data was at the forefront of a congressional hearing Tuesday as evidence that anti-LGBT discrimination in housing and credit continues to exist.

Among the key statistics that emerged in testimony before the House Financial Services Committee: About half of LGBT adults own their homes compared to 70 percent of the non-LGBT adult population; LGBT adults are twice as likely as non-LGBT people to report having been prevented by a landlord or owner from moving into a home; and same-sex couples experience about 3 to 8 percent lower approval rates in acquiring a loan than different-sex couples.

Chairing the hearing was Rep. Al Green (D-Texas), who touted the importance of that data in laying out the case anti-LGBT discrimination persists despite claims to the contrary.

"Today we have demonstrated with empirical evidence that this level of invidious discrimination exists, such that it is quite harmful not only to the persons who have been discriminated against, but also to the country," Green said.

Making his debut before Congress president of the Human Rights Campaign was Alphonso David, who made the case discrimination is consistent threat to LGBT people, particularly those who belong to other minority communities.

"Our community faces discrimination and rejection in every area of life — at school at work and at home," David said. "Distressingly, the weight of this discrimination falls disproportionately on the shoulders of LGBT people who are racial minorities, specifically black and brown members of our community."

David pointed out black male couples are the type of family most likely to face discrimination when seeking rental housing and 47 percent of black transgender women have attempt suicide over the course of their lifetimes.

A key point for David was the importance of the passing the Equality Act, legislation that would define anti-LGBT discrimination as discrimination based on sex in all aspects of federal civil rights law, including housing and credit. The House approved the legislation in May, but Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) has refused to take it up.

For David, the importance of the Equality Act was intersectional. After all, the measure would not just institute LGBT protections, but strengthen protections against racial discrimination by expanding the definition of public accommodations under the Civil Rights of 1964

Human Rights Campaign President Alphonso David speaks at the House Financial Services Committee hearing on Oct. 29 on anti-LGBT bias in housing and credit. (Washington Blade photo by Michael Key)

"If I went into a Gap department store to purchase a shirt, I could be discriminated against because there is no federal protection based on race," David said. "There are state protections, but no federal protections. The Equality Act would fix that."

Other witnesses at the hearing were Harper Jean Tobin, director of Policy for the National Center for Transgender Equality; Michael Adams, CEO of Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders; Kerith Conron, research director at the Williams Institute, University of California, Los Angeles; Hua Sun, an economics professor at Iowa State University; and Francis Creighton, CEO of the Consumer Data Industry Association.

Creighton stood out among these witnesses, urging the committee not to make changes that would require creditors to take note of sexual orientation or gender identity — even for the purposes of ending discrimination. Such a change, Creighton argued, could to enable subjective biases in lending.

"It's important to know what is and is not in a credit report," Creighton said. "Credit reports do not include sexual orientation credit reports do not include gender identity or sex assigned at birth credit reports do not include marital status or spouse."

Rep. Ayanna Pressley (D-Mass.) — who isn't a committee member, but took part in hearing as a guest of the panel — offered her own data points on issues facing LGBT people in Massachusetts despite the tremendous progress in her state (although she did appeal to emotion by asserting the Trump administration is "literally terrorizing" LGBT people with anti-LGBT policy).

"LGBT youth of color in the greater Boston area are disproportionately more likely to be unemployed," Pressley said. "Almost two-thirds of transgender individuals across the Commonwealth report experiencing discrimination in public spaces, so we know these problems are interconnected and the solution must also operate from a level of of intersectionality."

While numerous Democrats on the panel asked questions, Republicans were more reserved. Only two Republican members of the committee spoke: Rep. Bill Posey (R-Fla.) and Andy Barr (R-Ky.). Of those two, only Posey saw fit to ask questions.

Posey's questions were directed to Creighton to get him to expand on why efforts to ban anti-LGBT discrimination would be counterproductive.

Asked by Posey whether the information provided through credit bureaus is completely free of information on LGBT status that could enable biases, Creighton replied, "Yes, it is."

"And that's not to say that there isn't discrimination in the entire system, right?" Creighton added. "All what we're able to say is that it's not being provided at this point in the process by the consumer reporting system. As I said in my opening statement. We just don't have this data, and we wouldn't want to collect it."

Pressley, however, counted this argument by going the other way and asking Creighton whether eviction notices, which help form consumer reports, take into account potential discrimination that forms the basis for those evictions.

"Evictions records are what they are," Creighton replied. "We're just passing on the eviction records that will get from other places in consumer reports. Of course, evictions not part of a credit report, part of the other kind of consumer reports."

When asked whether this lack of information of a history of discrimination in rental reports puts LGBT people at a disadvantage while seeking rental housing, Creighton replied, "I don't know the answer to that."

Although data was a major point in the hearing, a more visceral moment took place when Green asked each of the five witnesses believed market-based solutions weren't enough to stop discrimination. Each of the hands were raised. Green then asked whether credit reports aren't enough to stop discrimination. Again, each of the witnesses raised their hands.

"Let the record reflect that all hands have been raised," Green said. "I'm doing this because invidious discrimination is irrational. It makes no sense. And because it makes no sense. You can't prevent it with something as simple as a credit report, because people do it with intentionality."

Another key point of the hearing was a proposed rule from the Trump administration that would undermine Obama-era regulations barring homeless shelters from discriminating against transgender people. The Department of Housing & Urban Development under Secretary Ben Carson proposed the measure, which allow federally funded shelters to refuse to place transgender people in sex-segreated facilities consistent with their gender identity.

Among the images displayed in rotation in the committee room was a Washington Blade story about Carson conveying to Congress he wouldn't promulgate guidance to shelters against anti-LGBT discrimination because LGBT advocates would "dislike" it."

Rep. Sean Casten (D-Ill.) asked Tobin whether there's any evidence allowing transgender people in homeless shelters poses a risk to other residents. Tobin replied: "No, there is not."

When Casten asked whether turning transgender people away is inconsistent with the Biblical story of the Sermon on the Mount, Tobin demurred, but provided a different take in opposition to discrimination.

"I'm certainly not here to take issue with anyone's theology, but I would hope that we can all agree that said the foundations of most faith organizations are serving people in need," Tobin said. "Most faith based organizations see no issue with complying with these discrimination rules. And again, first and foremost, you know, our taxpayer funds are serve everyone who is in need, and that that that should really be the deciding factor."

This article originally appeared in the Washington Blade and is made available in partnership with the National LGBT Media Association.

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US Rep. Katie Hill Resigns

BY LISA KEEN

U.S. Rep. Katie Hill, an early leader among first-term members of the U.S. House and the first openly bisexual person elected to the House, resigned Sunday night. In a letter posted at 7 p.m. ET Sunday on Twitter, Hill said she was "fearful" of continued "private photos of personal moments" being "weaponized" against her by "my abusive husband and the brutality of hateful political operatives."

The House Committee on Ethics announced Oct. 23 that it had become "aware of public allegations that Representative Katie Hill may have engaged in a sexual relationship with an individual on her congressional staff." U.S. House Rule XXIII, Clause 18(a) under the House Code of Official Conduct states that a member of Congress "may not engage in a sexual relationship with any employee of the House who works under the supervision of the Member ... or who is an employee of a committee on which the Member [serves] ..."

Hill denied having sexual relations with a man on her Congressional staff but acknowledged having an "inappropriate" relationship with a woman on her campaign staff. House rules do not govern candidates for office, only members of Congress.

Within minutes of Hill's announcement Sunday night, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi issued a statement.

"Congresswoman Katie Hill came to Congress with a powerful commitment to her community and a bright vision for the future, and has made a great contribution as a leader of the freshman class," she said. "She has acknowledged errors in judgment that made her continued service as a member untenable. We must ensure a climate of integrity and dignity in the Congress, and in all workplaces."

California Gove. Gavin Newsom has not yet announced his choice for an interim replacement for Hill. Some news reports speculate he may schedule a special election to fill the vacancy on March 3, when California holds its presidential primary.

Hill became the first openly bisexual person to be elected to the U.S. House in November 2018, when she defeated incumbent Republican Rep. Steve Knight. She was quickly chosen to be part of the speaker of the house's "leadership team" and vice-chair of the House Committee on Oversight, which was involved in impeachment proceedings against President Trump.

According to the Washington Post, the revelations about Hill's personal relationships first emerged on a conservative political website, RedState.com.

RedState.com's first story appeared on Oct. 18, noting that Hill is vice chair of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, one of the key committees looking into whether President Trump has committed acts worthy of having him removed from office.

In "that spirit," said the article, RedState was reporting that it had obtained photographs and text messages showing that Hill "was involved in a long-term sexual relationship with a female campaign staffer" and that the staffer, Hill, and Hill's husband had developed a "throuple" relationship. The website published three photos of Hill. In one of those photos, Hill is shown naked, brushing the hair of a fully clothed woman sitting between her knees.

The RedState article alleged that text messages it obtained indicate Hill broke off the relationship with the female campaign staffer and her husband, telling them she wanted to be alone and focus on her work. But RedState said Hill's husband, Kenny Heslep, heard that Hill had started a new sexual relationship with her Congressional legislative director, a man. RedState said Heslep filed for divorce after learning about the male Congressional staffer.

The RedState article says that Hill's extramarital relationships pose national security risks, given that Hill serves on both the oversight and armed services committees.

In a letter to her constituents Oct. 23, Hill acknowledged the relationship with her female campaign aide, saying it began during the "final tumultuous years of my abusive marriage."

"I know that even a consensual relationship with a subordinate is inappropriate, but I still allowed it to happen despite my better judgement. For that I apologize," wrote Hill.

But Hill denied having an inappropriate relationship with a male Congressional staffer, calling that accusation "absolutely false."

The next day, the British tabloid the Daily Mail published an additional photo it identified as Hill, naked and holding a bong. The paper says meta data from its photo indicates it was taken in September 2017, before recreational marijuana use was legalized in California. The tabloid pointed out a tattoo in her groin area that it says is a "Nazi-era iron cross." The paper did not indicate where the photo was taken, how it obtained or whether it was authenticated.

Hill is not the first openly LGBTQ member of Congress to be subjected to a house ethics investigation of allegations related to an inappropriate relationship. Previous investigations have been conducted on former U.S. Reps. Gerry Studds (D-Mass.) and Barney Frank (D-Mass.). The House censured Studds for his relationship with a 17-year-old Congressional page and reprimanded Frank for an "attempt to use [his] political influence" to help a man with whom he had a relationship.

Buttigieg Wants Another Justice Kennedy on Supreme Court

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg said his vision for Supreme Court appointments upon election as president would be in the mold of moderates like former U.S. Anthony Kennedy — although his campaign denies that characterization of his remarks.

Buttigieg expressed a predilection for Kennedy — as well as former U.S. Associate Justice David Souter — in an interview published Thursday in the women's magazine Cosmopolitan.

"The idea here is you get more justices who think for themselves," Buttigieg said. "Justices like Justice Kennedy or Justice Souter."

In the same breath, Buttigieg touted his plan for making consent from seated justices on the Supreme Court a condition for adding a new justice to the bench.

One idea Buttigieg articulated was having 15 members on the Supreme Court as opposed to the current nine, but requiring 10 justices already on the bench to agree unanimously to seat the other five.

"There are many legal scholars who think this could be done without a constitutional amendment under current law," Buttigieg added.

Kennedy has been a favorite justice in the gay community because he wrote each of the four major decisions from the Supreme Court on gay rights: Romer v. Evans, Lawrence v. Texas, Windsor v. United States and Obergefell v. Hodges.

In the last two cases, which were 5-4 decisions, Kennedy was the deciding vote striking down the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act and the state bans on same-sex marriage.

But the Reagan-appointed justice has also invoked the ire of progressives for other decisions.

Kennedy joined with the majority to uphold President Trump's travel ban on Muslim countries; allowed Hobby Lobby to deny for its employees insurance policies covering birth control; and in Janus v. AFSCME overturned precedent that allowed public sector unions to charge fees to non-members.

Nan Aron, president of Alliance for Justice, hinted other justices may be a more appropriate model for Supreme Court picks as opposed to Kennedy.

"There is a critical need to reassert balance on the court by appointing justices who can replace the lost voices of Thurgood Marshall and William Brennanl," Aron said. "Both understood that the role of the court is to provide redress for all Americans, not just the wealthy and powerful."

UPDATE: Sean Savett, a Buttigieg campaign spokesperson, denied the interpretation of the candidate's remarks in the Cosmopolitan interview as a vision for appointing justices like Kennedy to the Supreme Court.

"This tweet ignores his comments in the interview, in which he said his appointments would 'definitely be people who share my values,' and how depoliticizing SCOTUS is personal to him because his marriage exists by a single vote on the court," a Buttigieg campaign spokesperson tweeted. (As the Blade stated, Kennedy was a vote in favor of same-sex marriage.)

"It ignores how Pete said he would appoint justices who share our liberal values to existing seats," Savett continued. "JUST TODAY, he put out a plan that says he'd appoint justices who agree with him on choice."

"AND it ignores how Pete was talking about a scenario under his plan to depoliticize the court which has been widely praised by progressives by creating additional seats to be filled with ppl all 9 Justices would approve of," Savett tweeted. "By definition, those wouldn't be conservatives."

This article originally appeared in the Washington Blade and is made available in partnership with the National LGBT Media Association.

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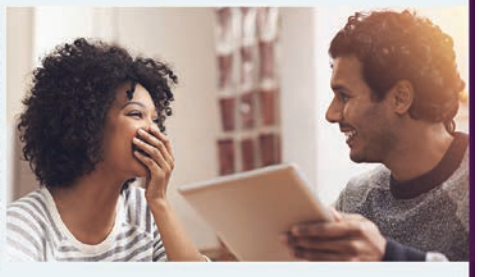

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Finding WALDO

LGBTQ-Allied Business Owners Adopt New Furry Friend

Fall Pamper Your Pet

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

At 11 months old, Waldo, the standard poodle and Wheaten terrier mix or woodle, is shaping up to be a strong, well-behaved puppy. But just a month ago, before he came into the lives of Steven and Katherine Lesse, he was recovering from surgery and physical and mental trauma he had received in a previous home from a family that was ill-equipped to take care of him.

"He came up on the Love Train from Tennessee," Katherine Lesse said, referencing the animal transportation program that moves animals from areas with high euthanasia rates to no-kill shelters. "And I guess the family — we don't know how he acquired him, he may have been a puppy mill puppy, we don't know — had both kids and other dogs in the house who were apparently very aggressive. And, in Tennessee, they abandoned him at The Humane Society. I think they didn't want to pay for all the surgeries — he had a lot of punctures and stiches on his chest and head and things like that. And they said that he had abandonment issues, he didn't like to be crated and that other dogs had attacked him. But I don't know what kind of household it was, because they obviously didn't properly take care of him or train him or protect him."

Meeting True Love

Despite all the trauma that Waldo had sustained, that for some may have been a deterrent for adoption, the Lesses were determined to give Waldo a home once they learned of him. It all started when the couple moved into a home with a yard that was equipped to handle a puppy.

"What we noticed about this house was that the basement had a big dog door and there was a big dog run with a big eight-foot fence around it. So, I said, 'Oh, Steve can have a dog again,'" Katherine Lesse said. "... Over the years, Steven has had one or two dogs in his whole life, always rescue dogs. As a family, we've had four rescue dogs."

See **Waldo**, continued on p. 20

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Coming Up ...

Novi Pet Expo Nov. 15-17

A three-day event, the Novi Pet Expo is held from Friday, Nov. 15, through Sunday, Nov. 17 at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi.

"This event showcases products like pet care products, pet foods, animal rescue products and services, feeds, animal welfare products and more," write event organizers. "Bounce House Mania for the kids and family fun pet entertainment for all ages!" The event will last from 2 to 9 p.m. on Friday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. The Showplace is located at 46100 Grand River Ave.

Holiday Paint Your Pet

Hosted by Painting with a Twist in Detroit, on Tuesday, Nov. 19, there will be a Holiday Paint Your Pet party where attendees can put their furry friend's face on a canvas. Bringing light snacks and drinks is allowed and encouraged, but no hard alcohol is permitted. This event runs from 6 to 9 p.m. and prices start at $50. Find out more online at paintingwithatwist.com.

Final Furry Farewells

Pet Passages' New Livonia Location Offers Cremation and Personalized End-of-Life Pet Care

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Wendy and Bob Sutton's story is similar to that of many pet owners. Eager to expand their family, the couple welcomed four animals into their home, caring daily for their needs and planning for every eventuality like vet visits, boarding and so on. However, when Lulu, one of the family's dogs, died unexpectedly overnight at home in 2018, Wendy Sutton said they were blindsided and had no idea how to proceed.

"I just knew that I wanted her cremated and to have her back home, but we hadn't done any planning or preplanning," she said. "... We ended up sending her to a place over in Royal Oak, and we're in Livonia, and Bob got to thinking afterward, 'Jeez, we had to go 30, 40 miles to find a place that got good enough reviews and feedback that we felt comfortable with taking her there. So, maybe there's an opportunity here on the west side for our market.'"

That's when the couple familiarized themselves with Pet Passages, a pet end-of-life service company based out of Rochester, New York, that primarily offers pet cremations. The couple reached out to Mike Harris, the company's founder, to get a sense of the requirements for starting their own franchise. It was a perfect match, and a after a year of startup, in April of 2019 the Suttons opened their own Livonia location.

"We're the only one in Michigan as of right now, and the reason we really liked Mike's business plan and his operation is he spent his career in the human funeral side. And when he lost his dog, the lightbulb went off for him and he left the human side and put all of his time and effort for the pet side," Wendy Sutton said. "So, we're learning from somebody that has spent their life in funeral services for both humans and pets. It's been extremely beneficial for us. And we have found that since we opened, if you go onto Google and look at our reviews, we're doing exactly what we set out to do and that is offer a very personalized service that is fully transparent and just a little bit more than taking your pet somewhere and dropping them off to be cremated."

Pet Passages specializes in pet cremation services that vary in cost by the animal's weight and vary depending on the wants and needs of the pet's owner. At the higher end, for animals weighing between 110 and 220 pounds, cremation costs $270 and at the lowest it's $65. Beyond that, pet owners can decide whether they'd like to do a fully private cremation, to ensure that their pet's remains are the ones they will receive, or a communal cremation, if they choose not to keep their pet's ashes.

"With any of our packages, the semi-private and private, our customers all receive as part of the cremation service an ink paw print and an embedded paw print. We've even started doing nose prints, which pet owners have been really, really liking. And they all get an engraved cherrywood urn and the cremains go into a velvet pouch, which then goes into that urn," she said. "We have lots of other retail options available — they can upgrade urns, we have a whole retail section both in our shop and online. If somebody wants something special, we do necklaces and keychains and different types of brass urns."

Sutton went on to say that for those pet owners who are interested in alleviating end-of-life stress, Pet Passages also offers a preplanning online form that allows customers to create a comprehensive plan to prepare for the eventuality at any point in their pet's life. Owners are also encouraged to take part in Pet Tales, or Pet Passages' in-house obituary service to let friends and family know of a pet's passing.

Beyond offering a variety of post-life care options, the Suttons pride themselves on the inclusivity of their services, too. Wendy Sutton said that as a service provider, she's glad to be able to provide a non-judgmental service to anyone, and that includes the LGBTQ community.

"To us, you're a pet parent first," she said. "Our business model is to provide personalized services to pet parents and we also recognize that the LGBTQ community may not always be getting married, may not be having children — their fur babies are their children. So, we really want to go out of our way for people like that, and even if it's somebody who isn't in that community and says, 'I don't want kids, I just want to have animals.' Those are their babies and we want to offer services that say to them, 'We are inclusive.'"

To find out more about Pet Passages and the Livonia location visit petpassages.com.

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► Waldo
Continued from p. 16

So, it wasn't long before they began visiting the Humane Society of Huron Valley, located less than a mile away from their home. When news broke that Waldo had arrived, Steven Lesse made his way to shelter as soon as possible.

"When he was there and Steven met him, he wasn't yet available for adoption, but Steven went and he found out that he was going to be available the next day. So, he went the next day, immediately, first thing in the morning, put his name down and said, 'I want to get to know this dog. Can you put a 24-hour hold?' I was at work and I didn't even know about this, I was in the middle of a staff meeting and he called me and said, 'You've got to come here now to The Humane Society.' We spent time with him that day and the next and we watched him and how he reacted with other dogs and he didn't seem fearful, which was encouraging."

New Names and New Beginnings

Eventually, the Lesses realized that Waldo would be a perfect fit for the family, but one thing was still up in the air: Waldo's name. At that time, Waldo was known as Otto, and Katherine Lesse said she wasn't sure that he would benefit from another major change like a new name in such a short period.

"I thought that at 10 months old that could be psychologically traumatizing, too. He's been uprooted from his home and had this trainer and multiple surgeries, but for that few days when we called him Otto, he never looked up when we called his name," she said. "And as we were talking about names, our property has three little swamps and, in the family, we call it Walden Ponds, plural. So, Waldo came up at one point, as in 'Where's Waldo?' And the kids love to play that game and we thought it fit with Walden Ponds. We called him Waldo a couple of times and he looked up. So, we decided that maybe it wouldn't be traumatic to change his name."

A Pattern of Giving

When asked why they decided to adopt a dog rather than purchasing one another way, Katherine Lesse said that the family always thinks of rescuing animals first.

"I just think that there are so many dogs and pets in need, why would you go to a mill and pet store? I just don't agree with that at all as a way to breed animals," she said. "They're often inbred and suffered early trauma and separation way before they should from their mother. And with inbreeding, they often have a lot of health problems. But also, I just don't want to support that industry at all, and when there are dogs out there that are coming from kill states where you can save their life [why buy?]"

The Lesse's giving nature translates to more than just their personal life, too. Owners of Abracadabra Jewelry and Gem Gallery in Ann Arbor, the couple has been making giving a part of their daily life long before they even considered adopting a dog.

"Our business, every few months, we do donations with both our customers and our staff, who actually came up with the idea. They donate change or anything they've got into this jar, we collect it and donate it to different things. ... This month, we're doing cancer, but we do different things," she said. "And even our ad for hiring employees at Abra used to have the line, 'Must love dogs,' because we used to bring our two dogs to work every day. One of our other crew members' husband is a dog whisperer trainer, and another crew member, we hired away from a doggy day care place. We have a lot of dog lovers and dog owners on our crew. And we've all gravitated toward rescue dogs."

Abracadabra Jewelry and Gem Gallery is a BTL advertiser. To find out more about the company visit abragem.com.

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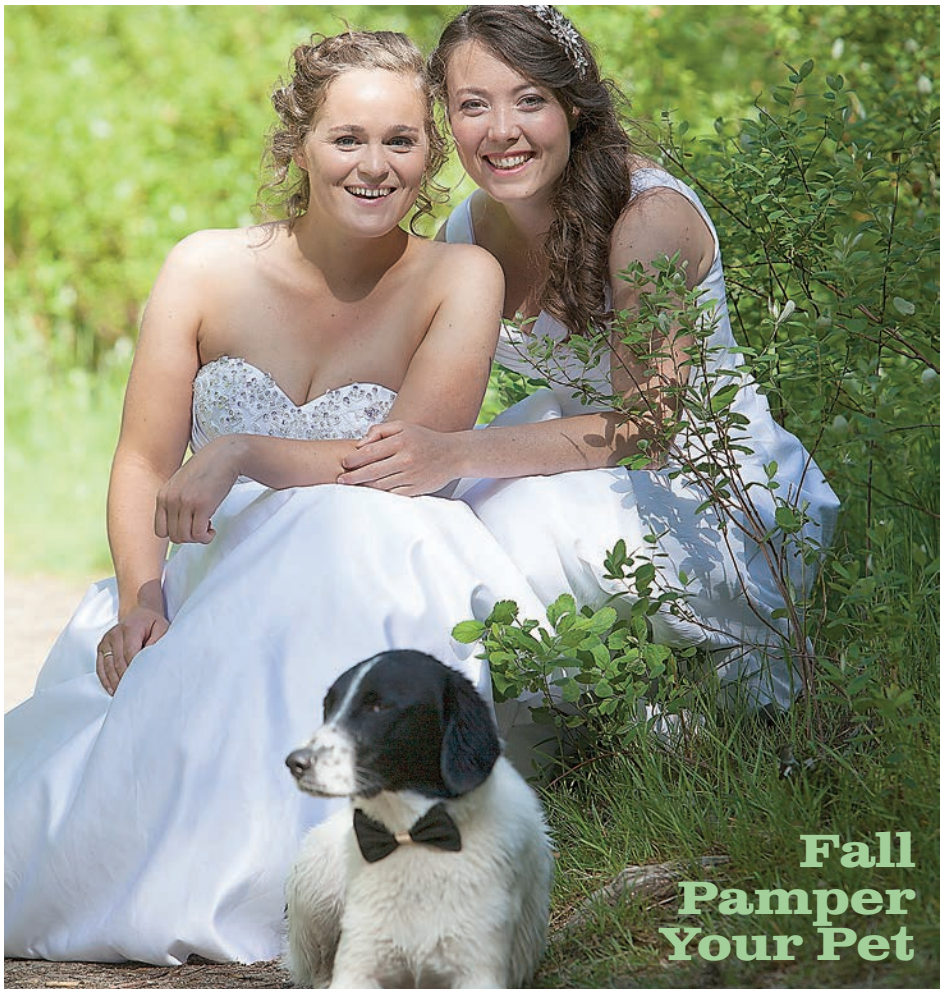
7 Wag-Worthy Ways to Incorporate Pets in Your Wedding



BY JILL JARACZ

Your wedding VIPs are your family – including your four-legged family members. So why not include your pets into your celebration?

Here are seven inspired ways to have your pet at your big day:

Stationery Star

Make your stationary extra personal by featuring your flurry friend. Tracie Morris, certified wedding planner at Detroit-based You're The Bride, suggests including your pet in engagement photos and using them to make adorable save the date and thank you cards.

Pooch of Honor

Groomsmen and bridesmaids are your closest friends – even if they're your pets! Honolulu-based photographer Reis Shimabukuro shot a wedding that featured the couple's three dogs as part of the wedding party. The groom's Labrador retriever wore a sign saying, "Daddy, here comes Mommy," and stood beside the best man. The bride's two lapdogs walked down the aisle with the maid of honor.

Fluffiest Ring Bearer Ever

When Ethan and Tina Kramer of Stamford, Connecticut, tied the knot in 2015, including their Swedish Vallhund Charlie was a no-brainer. "We got him around the time we got engaged. It was part of building a life together," says Ethan.

Charlie stole the show as the couple's ring bearer and sole member of the wedding party. Ethan's best friend attached the rings to Charlie's collar and released him down the aisle, where the happy couple was thrilled to see him.

Fancy Flower Dog or Cat

Does your pet look great in florals? Attach a floral wreath around its neck and have it be your flower girl. Human flower girls can also escort your pet down the aisle. Just make sure your pet is familiar with the children prior to the big day so it'll cooperate, said Morris.

This is also a good option for cats, though "cats are going to be a little harder to contain," said Morris. She advises carrying the cat or keeping it safe in a wagon.

Pawsitively Precious

Some venues may not allow pets, but that doesn't mean they can't have a presence. Ashley Lodge, a photographer based in Morristown, Tennessee, shot a wedding for a couple who have two rescue dogs. The couple wanted the dogs at the ceremony, but the venue prohibited pets.

"The bride was so sad she could not walk down the aisle with her two best friends, so her father put a few paw print stickers down the aisle, which made her cry so hard when she saw them! It was beautiful!" said Lodge.

Guest Book Beauty

Another fun way to include your pet is to incorporate them into your guest book. Morris suggests taking a picture of the three (or more) of you, blowing it up into a 16-by-20 inch photo. Have your guests sign the mat around your photo, and then hang it in your house as a beautiful memento.

Strike a Pose

Don't forget to take some formal photographs with your pet. Lodge suggests having a mini session with your pets during the formal photo shoot before or after the ceremony.

This idea also works well with non-traditional pets. One of Lodge's clients wanted to incorporate two goats, two cows and two dogs into their wedding, so she worked them into the photos.

Don't forget to have a plan for your pet before during and after the ceremony. Designate a friend or a professional pet sitter to keep an eye on them, so Fido or Fluffy will have a fun, comfortable night too.

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Photo: Cheryl Mann

Joffrey Ballet to Present 3 Boundary-Pushing, LGBTQ-Choreographed Works

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

The Joffrey Ballet is coming to Detroit and with it, the world-renowned ballet studio is bringing a packed weekend of three performances: "Beyond the Shore," "Vespertine" and "Joy" — but it wouldn't be a Joffrey show without something of a twist. A ballet company "committed to artistic excellence and innovation," The Joffrey says in its mission statement that it focuses on productions that are both "masterpieces of the past and cutting-edge works," and each of these upcoming performances fall into the latter category.

Playing from Saturday, Nov. 2, through Sunday, Nov. 3, each of the three pieces is choreographed by a gay choreographer and takes viewers through vastly different themes that both exemplify traditional ballet themes and push their limits. "Vespertine" by Liam Scarlett is an homage to the Baroque period. It features flowing gowns and an arguably opulent aesthetic, as well-adorned chandeliers hang above the dancers. This contrasts directly with Nicolas Blanc's "Beyond the Shore" that takes viewers between six disparate and musically inspired worlds that are based on a score by composer Mason Bates. Lastly, attendees shouldn't let the nude, stripped-down costumes in "Joy" fool them, this piece is far from bland. By Alexander Ekman, it is an exploration of happiness through movement, showing all the ranges of that emotion via dance. In advance of the show at the Michigan Opera Theatre, BTL chatted with members of The Joffrey to get a sense of what to expect in each of the three shows.

INFO

Beyond the Shore

The Joffrey's upcoming showcase features content for everyone. To learn more about the upcoming performance and buy tickets, visit michiganopera.org. More information about The Joffrey can be found online at joffrey.org.

"Joy"

Derrick Agnoletti has been with The Joffrey for over 15 years. Since joining, the openly gay dancer has performed in a number of works like "The Nutcracker," "Sometimes it Snows in April," "Cinderella" and "Tarantella." This time, he'll be featured in "Joy." He said of Ekman's work that it was created with a theme of fun and spontaneity in mind that translates well into the show. Especially, because it was created with direct input from its dancers.

"Alex has approaches that are often spontaneous," Agnoletti said. "For this moment and this specific piece, he was in a space where he wanted to dive into, 'What is joy?' 'How does it make you feel?' and 'Can you find movement that brings you an authentic sensation of joy?' With Alex, I am never surprised by his approach to his work. He is also very collaborative, so he is always formulating with everyone involved."

"Joy" is unique in the realm of ballet, too, because it showcases both men and women in high heels and similar nude costumes — certainly a departure from the art form's reputation for tradition. Agnoletti said that despite the difficulty of the routine, it was well worth the effort.

"I think the concept Alex wanted in this was truly to combine our genders, but also [to] steer away from it looking like we were about to 'vogue' or 'walk a runway.' I remember him describing it as once they are put on, it's almost like we are one with the shoe without bringing any sort of fake context to it," he said. "My feet do not like walking in heels. I tend to lose my balance or rock over the outside of my ankle, so I have to be super careful and grounded when doing this specific part."

However, when asked if it was freeing to bend traditionally defined gender roles, especially as an LGBTQ-identified dancer, Agnoletti said it didn't feel that way. Instead, it was an exploration of what it meant to be happy and in unity.

"I try to not use my being a homosexual male define anything I do or allow it to. I am just an Italian-American male named Derrick who dances his heart on stage. I don't necessarily feel like I am bending any sort of gender normative. I do, however, feel like when we all have the heels on in Joy, we are all one," he said. "That unity is an interesting feeling and often one that in the ballet we don't have, given the restraints of women wearing pointe shoes and the gentlemen being in a flat shoe. To move together, walking in unison and hearing the heels all moving as we stir about the stage is quite unifying as humans."

See **Beyond**, continued on p. 24

Photo: Cheryl Mann

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Cara Marie Gary and Derrick Agnoletti. Photo: Temur Suluashvili.

► **Beyond**

Continued from p. 23

"Beyond the Shore"

From the ambient to the otherworldly, Nicolas Blanc's "Beyond the Shore" is a six-part fantasy that is an exercise in the abstract. Each part takes the audience on a different adventure that differs in scope. Blanc's inspiration for "Beyond the Shore" came from a selection of composer Mason Bates' music, and he kept the names of each of the chosen pieces as themes for the different sections of the show.

"What's interesting about 'Beyond the Shore' is that I wanted to challenge myself," Blanc said. "... So, every five minutes, you enter into a new world that has nothing to do with the previous world. And, as a choreographer, it was a challenge, because most of the time when you create a ballet you either stick to a story. Or, if it's an abstract piece, you sort of have a theme that you carry throughout."

Though each section of "Beyond the Shore" carries with it a distinct storyline — like "Gemini in the Solar Wind," which is themed after a spacewalk, or "Broom of the System," which incorporates electronic elements into the dance — Blanc said he hopes the audience will interpret the work however they see fit.

"For instance, in the second section, the [audience] saw it already as something more alien-like, which I didn't, but I was happy that each of the audience members, according to what they hear, musically speaking, and what they see on the color palette and the lighting is the possibility to really dive into their own take on the story," Blanc said. "I think that's actually a very good thing. As a choreographer, I always want to make this point: ... even if ballet is abstract, you should never let the audience feel nothing; It should never be sterile. It should always have a sense of either something that you can really dive in, something that makes you wonder what is the world, something that makes you question."

"Vespertine"

Described as "sumptuous" by the Chicago Tribune, Liam Scarlett's "Vespertine" stands out not only for its detailed costume work and Baroque music but the 13 chandeliers that hang above the stage. The consistent costume changes also serve to mirror the ever-changing score. Not only that, it also features a same-sex duet.

"There is actually a male duet, it's beautifully made by Liam Scarlett," Blanc said. "And you feel this power of those two men together. ... In my sense, as not the ballet master and choreographer, when I see that duet, I see the tension between the very visceral attraction between those two men. And yet, [I see] that strength, that masculine strength, between the two of them. And perhaps that's rejection and attraction."

Blanc said also that because of Scarlett's seamless interpretation of the score, LGBTQ and allied audiences alike will be able to relate to not only the show as a whole but the duet as well.

"It's not necessarily like, 'Oh, those are two men on stage.' It's so well-crafted that ... there are so many meanings that you can put into this duet when you see them," Blanc said.

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Puzzle Clues, p.29

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34th Annual Women in the Arts Festival

BY BTL STAFF

The Women in the Arts Festival has for over 30 years celebrated the work of regional artists and takes place annually during the second weekend of November in East Lansing. This year, from Friday, Nov. 8, through Saturday, Nov. 9, women from near and far will congregate at the Edgewood United Church to showcase their talents.

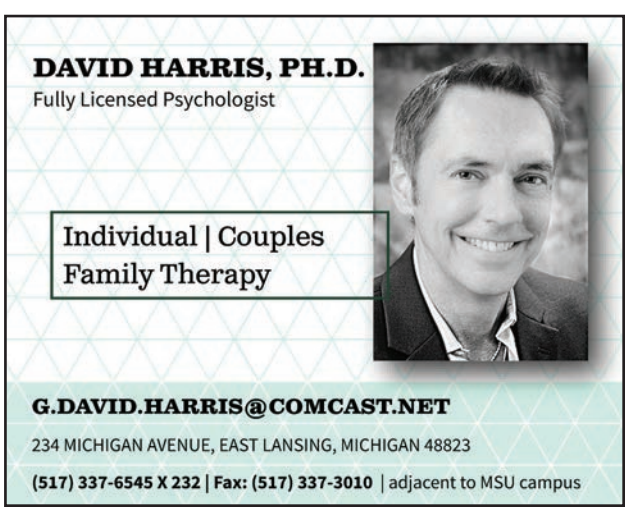
"The festival features a huge artist market, musicians, poets and other creative arts as a symbol of our commitment to support women in the creative pursuits," write event organizers. "WITA is a volunteer-run organization with the goal of creating space for creative women to showcase their talents."

Featured this year on Friday at 7:30 p.m. is Natalia Zukerman's musical presentation of "The Women Who Rode Away," which is co-produced with The Ten Pound Fiddle. Bill Hurley of The Extended Play Sessions said that it "speaks of empowerment, struggle, tolerance, perseverance and history" and that its timing could "not be more poignant."

On Saturday at 6 p.m. duo Nia & Ness will perform. The black, lesbian, dancer-poet performance art couple is based out of Brooklyn, New York, and has performed nationwide since 2013.

"... Their work that aims at a deeper understanding of their co-reality through intense investigation of their individual identities," wrote event organizers.

To find out more about the featured artists visit witafestival.com.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Happenings

BROCKHAMPTON

A rap collective originally hailing from San Marco, Texas, Brockhampton has been described by Complex magazine as "gay, black, white, DIY, ambitious, all-inclusive, and would-be pop stars." The group has gotten recognition its work, notably reaching debuting at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 album chart in 2018 for the "Iridescence" album. "Ginger" is the group's latest album, which debuted this summer. On Saturday, Nov. 30 Brockhampton will perform at The Masonic Temple. Find out more online at themasonic.com.

OUTINGS

Friday, November 1

LGBT Social Meet Up 6:30 p.m. Lgbt social meet up group is a group for all LGBTQ people who want to meet have light hearted discussions and social activities some activities, all welcomed. Hazel Park Community Center, 620 West Woodward Heights, Hazel Park. 248-632-8274. redbellysenegal90@gmail.com.

Saturday, November 2

Queer Conversations 11 a.m. Saturday LGBT Chat is an on going social discussion group meets every week to discuss issues LGBT people face. Coming out, dating and much more. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. redbellysenegal90@gmail.com.

Sunday, November 3

Stand with Trans Wyandotte Support Group for Trans Youth and Parents of Trans Individuals 4 p.m. There is no fee to attend the groups. St. Stephens Episcopal Church, 2803 1st St., Wyandotte. 734-747-4363. standwithtrans.org.

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Adrian-Lenawee County 6:30 p.m. FREE and OPEN to the community. For Trans Youth Support Group information, contact facilitator Socorro Sevilla, MSW: socorro@hilltopcounseling.org. Hilltop Counseling, 115 W. Maumee St., Adrian. 313-909-5408. standwithtrans.org. hilltopcounseling.org.

Monday, November 4

LGBT Game Night 6 p.m. LGBT Game Night is an opportunity for all LGBT people and allies to come play a board game, drink coffee, bring your own drinks and socialize with other LGBT individuals. All are welcomed. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105 redbellysenegal90@gmail.com.

Tuesday, November 5

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Lake Orion / Oakland County 7 p.m. FREE and OPEN to the community. For parents of transgender kids, this group meets the 1st Tuesday of each month @ St. Mary's In-the-Hills Episcopal Church. Parent Support Group Facilitated by Lisa Goyette, ally, activist. St. Mary's In The Hills Episcopal Church, 2512 Joslyn Court, Lake Orion. 248-391-0663. stmarysinthehills.org. standwithtrans.org.

Thursday, November 7

Pride Night at Thunderbowl! 7 p.m. Meet & Greet First Thursday of every month, unlimited bowling, shoe rental, private room, private bar area, drink specials, billiard room, 250-foot video wall. Thunderbowl Arena, 4200 Allen Road, Allen Park. 313-928-4688. thunderbowl.org.

Sunday, November 24

National Theatre Live in HD: A Midsummer Night's Dream 7 p.m. Shakespeare's most famous romantic comedy, produced by the Bridge Theatre in London, features Gwendoline Christie (Game of Thrones), Oliver Chris, David Moorst, and Hammed Animashaun as Titania, Oberon, Puck, and Bottom. Nicholas Hytner's immersive staging Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St.,Ann Arbor. 734-668-8397. ums.org.

Tuesday, November 26

Strand with Trans Support Groups – Ann Arbor – Washtenaw 6:30 p.m. Trans support group. Parent Support Group Facilitator – Yma Johnson, ymaj1968@gmail.com or 734-780-4092. Journey of Faith Christian Church, 1900 Manchester Road, Ann Arbor. standwithtrans.org.

MUSIC & MORE

yMusic November 1, 8 p.m. Founded in New York City in 2008, yMusic uses its unique configuration (string trio, flute, clarinet and trumpet) to "playfully overstep the boundaries of musical genres." (New Yorker) This concert is a celebration of young Rackham Auditorium, 915 E. Washingon St., Ann Arbor. 734-764-8572. rackham.umich.edu.

John Cameron Mitchell November 2, 8 p.m. John Cameron Mitchell performs songs and stories from two groundbreaking decades of post-punk, neo-glam rock – a collective quest for love, hope and identity. Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. 734-764-3464. ums.org.

Laura Mendoza Live in Concert November 5, 7 p.m. Detroit musician Laura Mendoza live in a 2-hour concert at SpreadArt Gallery. Art show and flea market onsite. 5141 Rosa Parks Blvd., Detroit. 586-806-9343.

Celine Dion November 5, 7:30 p.m. One of the most celebrated pop stars in history, Celine Dion announced that her "Courage World Tour" will bring her to Detroit's Little Caesars Arena. Find out more information online at gaybe.am/CP.

Alec Baldwin: A Hilarious Uncensored Conversation November 14, 7 p.m. Alec Baldwin brings his show A Hilarious Uncensored Conversation to the fabulous Fox Theatre in downtown Detroit Thursday, Nov. 14. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-471-6611.

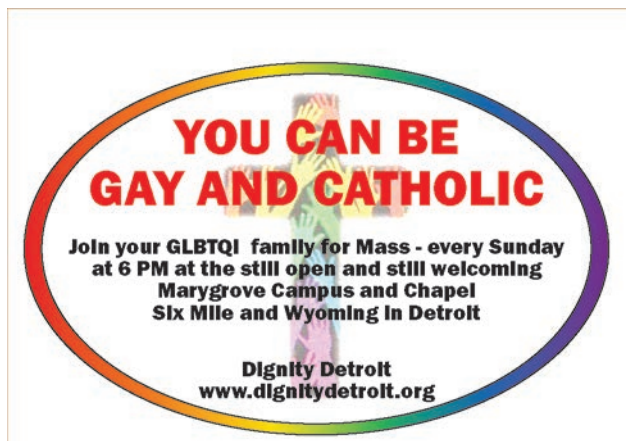
Teac Damsa – Loch na hEala (Swan Lake) November 15, 8 p.m. Rooted in a place where ancient Irish mythology and modern Ireland meet, Loch na hEala (Swan Lake) is a Swan Lake for our time. Dance is interwoven with storytelling, song, and live music. Power Center, 121 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor. 734-647-3327. smtd.umich.edu.

Vivaldi's Four Seasons – Max Richter's Vivaldi Recomposed November 16, 8 p.m. Experience back-to-back versions of Vivaldi's timelessly thrilling masterpiece, The Four Seasons, including Max Richter's modern "recomposition" that topped classical album charts in 22 countries. Rackham Auditorium, 915 E. Washingon St., Ann Arbor. 734-764-8572. rackham.umich.edu. ums.org.

Stand with Trans Parent Support Group – Lansing- Ingham County November 18, 6 p.m. Free to all, Parent Support Group Facilitator Nicole Ellefson.Salus Center, 624 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-580-4593 saluscenter.org. standwithtrans.org.

Orchestre Metropolitain de Montreal with Yannick Nezet-Seguin and Joyce DiDonato November 20, 7:30 p.m. After last season's stunning performance of Schubert's "Winterreise," Joyce DiDonato and Yannick Nézet-Séguin join forces once again. Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. 734-764-3464. ums.org.

Stew & the Negro Problem – Notes of a Native Song November 22, 8 p.m. "A celebration of Baldwin's legacy as an inspiration for artists to create their own work that, like his, defies genres and expectations." (New York Times) Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 North University, Ann Arbor. 734-763-3333. ums.org.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Six Mile and Wyoming in Detroit
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www.dignitydetroit.org

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Community Connections

Phil Elam Takes to the Stage Nov. 1 for Double One-Man Show at Boll Family YMCA Theater

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Phil Elam has long been known in Metro Detroit's LGBTQ community. It all started when he, along with then-boyfriend now-husband Mike Boila, recorded and performed under the name Justus Boyz. The duo self-released an album in 2003 and its first single, "Calling All the Boys," created enough buzz to get the band gigs as the opener for such acts as Ashanti, 98 Degrees and KC & The Sunshine Band. But Elam's interests extend beyond music. This Friday, Elam will return to the stage and give a special one-night-only performance of two one-man shows at the Boll Family YMCA Theater in downtown Detroit. Elam's piece is called "Fortunate Faces" and in it Elam will play five different characters. He will be joined by fellow actor Michael Fish.

"Each character represents an experience in my life," Elam, who does not reveal his age, explained to Between The Lines. "Experiences, good or bad, are like houseguests. We have to treat each houseguest with respect and love. Then when the guests leave we can reflect on the time they spent with us – whether they left us with good feelings or maliciously cleaned us out. We learn from them and then move on. Each character in the show was a houseguest in my soul."

Elam said he continues to reinvent himself as he explores his artistic passions.

"All of these creative personalities have always existed," he said. "They have just been awaiting their turn and right opportunity to be expressed. Even when one particular creative aspect was being publicly expressed, the others were always keeping busy in the background. [My husband] Mike sees them all at the same time – all the time. He's a saint."

Elam created "Fortunate Faces" while studying with Rich Goteri at Goteri Creative Arts in Ferndale.

"For the past three years I've received incredible training in acting, particularly method acting," Elam said. "One of the courses offered is one-man show writing, taught by Jeff Fritz. After the course we were required to present before the class."

In the audience was Antoine McKay, who played Bunkie in the television drama "Empire." McKay invited Elam to perform his show at his own McKay Theatre in Chicago.

"It went over very well in Chi-Town," Elam said. "After returning, another fellow acting student, the incredible Michael Fish, expressed interest in doing a performance together in Detroit. When he asked, I said yes immediately. Any chance to perform at home is a gift not lost on me."

For his piece, Fish will be presenting "My Friend Freud," wherein he channels a comical Sigmund Freud interpreting a series of unconventional dream sequences.

The joint production takes place this Friday, Nov. 2, at 8 p.m. at the Boll Family YMCA Theatre located at 1401 Broadway Street in Detroit. Tickets are $20 and there is no reserved seating. The show is only for audiences 18 and over.

Transgender Michigan's Birthday Bash and Halloween Party at Affirmations Nov. 2

Picking out Halloween costumes and having a birthday are usually experiences for a fun day, but putting them together is certainly a recipe for a good time. That's what Transgender Michigan is doing for its Birthday Bash and Halloween Costume Party to be held on Saturday, Nov. 2, at the Affirmations LGBTQ community center in Ferndale. It will be a celebration of Transgender Michigan's start and the birthday of Transgender Michigan's Founder Rachel Crandall-Crocker.

"Now is when we need to be all together. The party is perfect for people who have never really gone out in the past. It's in a safe environment, all trans and allies and it could be a good way for people to make friends," Crandall-Crocker said.

When asked what she's excited about most for the event she laughed that it wasn't about turning 60, but she's eager for the event to encourage the support of the transgender community. And hosting the event as it aligns with Halloween is intentional, too.

"When I was growing up I looked forward to Halloween all year long. And I have friends who are cross-dressers that their partner only allows them to dress as a woman once a year and that's on Halloween," Crandall-Crocker said. "Oh my God, it was so wonderful when I could actually be a girl one day a year."

Crandall-Crocker's experience is shared by many in the transgender community and she said she hopes that there will be a large turnout this year. Also at the event will be karaoke, prizes, food and much more.

"And all of our events are free, every single one. There are other transgender events of other organizations that cost money, however ours never do," she said. "Everyone who is trans or an ally is welcome, even if they don't have a penny to their name. They are welcome to come and eat and have a good time."

Online at transgendermichigan.org.

Find over 300 Non-Profit Listings Serving Michigan's LGBTQ Online @ pridesource.com

AIDS/HIV

There are dozens of AIDS/HIV organizations and resources listed at www.PrideSource.com. Here are just some of them:

Metro Care Coordination Network
Free, comprehensive services for those living with HIV/AIDS.
877-931-3248
248-266-5545
Metrocarenetwork.org

UNIFIED - HIV Health & Beyond
3968 Mt. Elliott St.
Detroit MI 48207-1841
313-446-9800
www.miunified.org
Michigan HIV/STED Hotline
800-872-2437

Matrix MAC Health
429 Livernois St.
Ferndale, MI 48220
888-226-6366
248-545-1435
http://www.matrixhumanservices.org/programs/matrix-mac-health/

Macomb County STD Clinic
27690 Van Dyke
Warren, MI 48093
586-465-8440
http://health.macombgov.org/Health-Programs-HPDC-HIVAIDSCounselingTesting

Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency (OLSHA)
196 Cesar E. Chavez Ave.
Pontiac, MI 48343
248-209-2647
www.olhsa.org

Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Service (ACCESS)
Sterling Heights Center
4301 East 14 Mile Rd.
Sterling Hts., MI 48310
586-722-6036
www.accesscommunity.org

Advocacy

Equality Michigan
19641 W. 7 Mile, Detroit, MI
313-537-7000
equalitymi.org
Facebook.com/equalitymichigan

Campus

Currently there are 19 organizations listed as active online at www.pridesource.com/yellow pages. The following are some in the southeast Michigan area:

U-M Ann Arbor
Spectrum Center
Specturmcenter@umich.edu
http://spectrumcenter.umich.edu
734-763-4186

Oakland University Gender & Sexuality Center
gsc@oakland.edu
www.oakland.edu/gsc
248-370-4336

Eastern Michigan University
LGBT Resource Center
emich.edu/lgbtrc
734-487-4149

The Lawrence Tech LGBT Resource Center
ltu.edu/student_affairs/lgbt.asp

Wayne State JIGSAW
Facebook.com/groups/WayneStateJIGSAW
wsujigsaw@gmail.com

Community Centers

Michigan has eleven active LGBTQ community centers, with a tenth planned in Lansing. Here are three of them.

Jim Toy Community Center
Ann Arbor
www.jimtoycenter.org.
www.facebook.com/jimtoycenter
or follow them on Twitter @JimToyCenter.
319 Braun Court
Ann Arbor, MI
734-995-9867

LGBT Detroit
Detroit
www.lgbtdetroit.org.
www.facebook.com/lgbtdetroit
@LGBTDetroit.
20025 Greenfield Road
Detroit, MI
Phone: 313-397-2127

Affirmations
Ferndale
http://goaffirmations.org
www.facebook.com/Affirmations/
or follow them on Twitter @GoAffirmations.
290 W. Nine Mile Road
Ferndale, MI
248-398-7105

Legal

American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan
Jay Kaplan, Staff Attorney, LGBT Project
2966 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI
www.aclumich.org
313-578-6800

Fair Michigan
PO Box 6136
Plymouth, MI 48170
877-432-4764, 313-556-2300
fairmichigan.org
Facebook.com/fairmichigan2016

Know Your RIghts Project
Outlaws U-M student group
outlawslegal@gmail.com
734-995-9867

Older Adults

SAGE Metro Detroit
290 W. Nine Mile Rd. Ferndale, MI
313-578-6812
sagemetrodetroit.org
Facebook: SAGE Metro Detroit

Political

The LGBT and Allies Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party
Facebook.com/TheLGBTA-CaucusoftheMDP
Stonewall for Revolution
www.facebook.com/stonewall4reolution

Professional Groups

Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 32446
Detroit, MI 48232
detroitlgbtchamber.com
1-800-DET-LGBT

Ties Like Me
Professional networking events
third Weds. 5:30 - 8 p.m.
TiesLikeMe.org
Suits And The City
Lansing, MI
suitsandthecity@gmail.com
www.suitsandthecity.org

Transgender

FtM Detroit
https://www.facebook.com/FtMDetroit/
ftmdetroit@gmail.com.

Get Listed, Promote Your Events

You can add or update any listing by going to www.PrideSource.com and clicking on Yellow Pages. Once you submit your listing, our staff will contact you to confirm your information.
You can add your event to the Pride Source Calendar online and in print by going to www.PrideSource.com and clicking on Calendar, then "Add Event." Send any press releases and announcements to editor@pridesource.com

Find a digital version of PrideSource Magazine online under Our LGBT Yellow Pages

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ftmannarborypsilanti@gmail.com
https://www.facebook.com/ftma2ypsi/

Transgender Michigan
23211 Woodward Ave.
Ferndale, MI
info@transgendermichigan.org
www.transgendermichigan.org
800-842-2954

Trans Sistas of Color Project
19641 W. 7 Mile Rd. in Detroit
313-537-7000 Ext 107
info@tscopdetroit.org
www.facebook.com/TSCOPD/

Youth

Ruth Ellis Center
77 Victor Street, Highland Park, MI 48203
info@ruthelliscenter.org
Facebook: Ruth Ellis Center
313-252-1950

Ozone House
102 N. Hamilton Street
Ypsilanti, MI
734-662-2265
734-662-2222

Stand With Trans
Farmington, MI
www.standwithtrans.org
248-739-9254

Find these resources online
- Adoption Services
- AIDS/HIV Hotlines
- AIDS/HIV Organizations
- Alzheimer's Association
- Animal Shelter
- Anti-Violence
- Archives/Collections
- Campus; Student and Alumni Groups
- Cancer Support Groups
- Choruses
- Community Centers
- Employee Resource Groups
- Families and Parents
- Foster Care
- Foundations and Funders
- Hotlines & Switchboards
- Labor Union
- Legal Organizations
- Museums
- Music Groups
- National Organizations
- Political Organizations
- Professional Organizations
- Religious & Spiritual
- Senior Living
- Seniors
- Social/Community Organizations
- Sports
- Substance Abuse
- Transgender Groups/Services
- Women's Health
- Youth Services

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